

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated October 17, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, 13, 19, 29, 30, 33, 34, 38 and 40 have been amended and Claims 11, 14, 16, 22, 31 and 32 were previously cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15, 17-21, 23-30 and 33-41 are pending. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12, 19-21, 23, 25-29, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40 and 41 have been rejected as being obvious in light of Paradigm Industries, Inc. stand photographs ("Paradigm") in view of Peddinghaus. Claims 8, 24, 36 and 39 have been rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of a Paradigm and Tischendorf. Claims 13, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of Paradigm Stand, Tischendorf and Peddinghaus. Claims 30 and 33 have been rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of Paradigm, the Moose Aluminum Lift Stand and Peddinghaus.

The independent claims have been amended to include structural language that further describes the coupling device (or coupling mechanism, whatever the case may be). The specification has also been amended to provide the requisite antecedent basis for these claim amendments. No new matter has been added by these amendments since the embodiments now described and claimed may be found in Fig. 1 as originally submitted.

The Examiner indicated in the above-identified office action that the introduction of structural language that describes the coupling device would address Paradigm. Proposed amendments, which were believed to comply with the Examiner's suggestions, were forwarded to the Examiner for review on November 21, 2007. In a brief telephone conference on January 3, 2008 the Examiner requested that the undersigned provide specific independent claims to review

from the set of eight independent claims presented. The undersigned requested that Claims 1 and 9 be reviewed. On January 9, 2008 another telephone interview was conducted wherein the Examiner indicated that further claim amendments were needed that recite more positive terms of connection between the claimed elements. The Examiner, with specific reference to Claim 9, suggested such terms, most notably that the coupling device is "adjustably positioned at a plurality of positions along the height of the cylindrical support sleeve". This terminology (or terminology similar thereto) and other amendments suggested by the Examiner have been made to all independent claims. Since the claims now include subject matter not found in the combination of references, withdrawal of all rejections of any of the claims listed above is respectfully requested.

Based upon at least the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2/13/08

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